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1981

SUMMARY REPORT

GOVERNOR'S INVITATIONAL MEETING
IN CONJUNCTION WITH

"MONTANA HANDICAPPED AWARENESS WEEK" AND THE "INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS"



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HELENA, MONTANA

MAY 5, 1981

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This report summarizes the proceedings of the meeting by following the sequence of presentations and discussion as closely as possible:

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This report was prepared by staff in the Lieutenant Governor's office, who extend special appreciation to Kay Hickman of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) for taking notes during the meeting. Additional copies are available from the Lieutenant Governor's office or from Judith Carlson of SRS who serves as State IYDP Liaison, both c/o Capitol Station, Helena, Montana 59620.

REPORT
PREPARATION
AND
DISTRIBUTION

At the invitation of Governor Ted Schwinden, some 30 community representatives from 14 cities and counties met with nearly 50 state agency and association officials on Tuesday, May 5, to focus on Montana's involvement in the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP).

INTRODUCTION

Communities invited were those that had, through their county or municipal leadership, previously asked to be recognized by the U.S. Council for IYDP as a "Community Partner" during the International Year and had designated someone to serve as a "Community Liaison" to the U.S. Council. In Montana, 12 counties and 4 cities were officially registered with the U.S. Council; all but 2 of the counties participated in the May 5 state meeting. (See Appendix A for a list of community representatives who attended the meeting; Appendix B lists the mailing addresses and telephone numbers for all of Montana's IYDP "Community Liaisons.")

Lieutenant Governor George Turman presided at the meeting, explaining that the state session had been planned to coincide with "Montana Handicapped Awareness Week," May 3-9, as proclaimed by Governor Schwinden. The Governor's proclamation (see Appendix C) acknowledged recent legislative resolutions in support of the International Year of Disabled Persons, and the Lieutenant Governor stressed the new Administration's commitment, as well. A telegram from the President of the U.S. Council for IYDP was read, commending the convening of the Governor's meeting and Montanans' "enthusiasm and pioneering spirit."

Lt. Gov. Turman emphasized that the day's program had been designed around the Administration's two-pronged interest in learning about what is happening and what could/should be happening with the state's disabled citizens. (See Appendix D for a copy of the agenda.) Before starting the community "sharing session" for the morning segment, he called for introductions from the audience (Appendix A includes the names of agency and association representatives who were present.)

The first part of the "sharing session" involved brief reports from each of the communities represented, as follows.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

City of Great Falls, reported by H.P. Brown: He credited Floyd McDowell and Bob Deming of the State School for the Deaf and Blind and other members of the local IYDP Committee for helping to create generally high awareness in Great Falls with respect to the disabled population. He said their current priority was on the "silent handicapped" -- those with hard-to-recognize conditions such as deafness, mental retardation and learning disabilities--since the city was quite "up front" in serving the needs of others with more apparent handicaps.

Great Falls

Lewis and Clark County, reported by Ken Rohyans: He stressed the need to visit and serve sites outside Helena. As an example, he said he and Dan McCarthy (the co-liaison for the county) had visited Augusta and had identified two individuals there with handicaps. The committee would be working with the county commissioners, he said, to see what would be useful in the way of a program, particularly for the smaller towns.

Lewis and Clark County

City of Helena, reported by Susan Barmeyer and Mike White: Susan explained that she served as the liaison and asked Mike White, the committee chairman, to report on their activities. Mike said that they had established certain priorities, all concerned with keeping the public aware in an "on-going way" of both the disabilities and the abilities of people with handicaps. Among projects he mentioned were: speaking engagements for classes and civic groups, compilation of a resource booklet (with attendant problems of keeping it updated), identification of the number and types of disabilities in Helena, working with the Easter Seal Society on an accessibility survey and gaining media coverage as often as possible. Mike expressed his opinion that the most important area was making buildings and transportation accessible so that disabled people "can go out and work--the bottom line!"

Helena

Hill County, reported by Diane Savasten: General awareness activities to educate the community about handicaps, she said, were the Havre-based committee's primary target. Their objective is, wherever possible, to open up programs within the community to the disabled.

Hill County

City of Butte, reported by Kathy Collins: The Butte/Silver Bow Committee has several sub-groups to accomplish its work, which includes: setting up information booths at the shopping plaza and at the courthouse; sending speakers to talk with school children and to show films; tracking legislation; advising recreation workers on ways to

Butte

make recreation facilities accessible for all kinds of handicaps; sponsoring a show of works by disabled artists; advocating more accessible housing for independent living; updating and distributing a Butte/Silver Bow access pamphlet; and working with Special Olympics. Kathy said progress had been made with such things as parking areas and ramps uptown and at the courthouse, but it takes a lot of "pushing and patience" to get things done. She also noted that the first committee meeting she went to, she was elected chairperson and was the only physically handicapped person there since transportation wasn't available for others, evidently.

Chouteau County Chouteau County, reported by Connie Green: Their first meeting was in Big Sandy on January 1, and H.P. Brown traveled from Great Falls to talk to the group. Several areas of need were identified, and they set goals. They have had particularly good cooperation from churches. Also, they are presently in the process of compiling a list of all disabled persons in the county. Connie reported that their greatest unmet need possibly is home health care for disabled and elderly people. She said 7 developmentally disabled persons are working in the activity center, and each one of them has an advocate. Also, a puppet skit on developmental disabilities has been prepared for presentation to grade school youngsters. Connie believes a lot of progress has been made locally and that the main activities continue to be on an awareness level.

Pondera County Pondera County, reported by Ruthe Kronebusch: In Conrad, accessibility has been improved through curb cuts, ramps and elevators (in public and private facilities, especially churches). The committee has been active in several areas, including fundraisers to support their projects, and has had fun in the process (they raised enough money to purchase jackets for the activity center and they worked on the Special Olympics). Ruthe felt they could be doing more with and for the aging people. The committee is engaged in awareness activities because, as Ruthe said, "...if you want people to know your business, you have to tell them!" She said the community has been responsive to helping once they know what the needs are.

Teton County Teton County, reported by Joyce Curtis: The Chouteau-based committee sponsored a local awareness week and gained good newspaper coverage of its activities. They also have a legislative action committee. And, just recently, the church women in the area chose the International Year as their main goal for the year. Joyce said identifying disabled persons and working to improve accessibility (especially at the courthouse) were needs the committee should address, but she said general awareness is high.

City of Missoula and Missoula County, reported by Jace Laakso: Their committee is trying to address the national goals, not all at once (which dilutes energy) but by picking a particular goal each month and focusing on it. They view 1981 as just a springboard and intend to make the '80s a "decade of IYDP." They are working on an accessibility survey, they distributed information at the Five Valleys Health Fair, they have given advice on recreation facilities, and they have sponsored social events. A local artist designed a poster of a "flying wheelchair" which was quite attractive and was used for fundraising and awareness in the community. Jace also noted having the University campus, which is quite accessible, available for cultural and other community events.

Missoula and
Missoula County

Sanders County, reported by Leslie Foster: The committee has a fairly good idea of the number of disabled persons in the county and have decided that Hot Springs is where the greatest unmet need is. There, 23 developmentally disabled persons reside in nursing homes, and the goal is to get them relocated in communities. Public awareness is the committee's continuing concern.

Sanders County

Flathead County, reported by Bill Crivello: He said it was difficult to report on IYDP activities, as such, because there have been on-going efforts in the county and awareness has been high for some time. He said Kalispell residents have been very supportive and that the city and county governments have consistently given good response to needs identified. Bill cited curb cuts, sheltered workshops and purchase of equipment for group homes as examples of some of their successes. He said that working on improved access to all buildings, and better housing, were among current goals. And he stressed the need for developing an advocacy system for all handicapped persons that extends far beyond just 1981 as the International Year.

Flathead County

Big Horn County, reported by Rick Thompson: He typified the county as "very aware" and the community of Hardin as "very active" and said the committee was very cooperative and "easy to work with." Through both the city and county governments, he felt they had made "great strides." The Committee decided to make May "Handicapped Awareness Month" and, at the end of the month, a new work activity center for disabled adults will be dedicated as a community-wide event. He said renovations in the courthouse and library are making those facilities more accessible, and the committee has worked on community education, particularly to make school children aware of disabilities and the lives of disabled persons. He credited the Kiwanis as the most active service group and identified a major need as getting members of the Crow Tribe involved.

Big Horn County

Toole County Toole County, reported by Jim Farrar: The Shelby-based committee is primarily concerned with educating the public and monitoring new facilities (e.g., a hospital and low-income housing) to make sure they are accessible. He expressed his opinion that in one new housing project supposedly with three rooms for handicapped occupants, "if your handicap is a severe hangnail, you'd be in business." He also commented that once when he was in Helena, he noticed that non-handicapped people were using the reserved handicapped parking spaces and he reported it to security; the "bureaucratic solution" to the problem, he observed on a subsequent trip, was that the reserved signs had been removed.

Gallatin County Though not listed as an "IYDP Community Partner", Gallatin County was represented at the meeting by County Commissioner, Joy Nash, who read a prepared statement. In particular, she emphasized city, county and federal facilities in Bozeman that recently have been made accessible. As a member of the Human Services Committee of the Montana Association of Counties, she also pledged to report on the day's meeting to her fellow county commissioners from throughout the state at MACo's annual conference in June.

Following a brief break, the morning session continued with the IYDP community representatives serving as discussants on a panel moderated by Judy Carlson of Social and Rehabilitative Services (SRS), the State IYDP Liaison to the U.S. Council. Judy acknowledged the supportive role the state can play, but she recognized that real progress and vital services naturally reside at the local level. Community-based action is the prime emphasis of the IYDP, she said, and she commended the Governor and Lt. Governor for bringing the community liaisons together to share information among themselves and with the broad spectrum of state agency people present.

"getting organized" To start the panel discussion on the topic of "how to get organized," Judy called on the Helena Liaison to explain the process. Susan Barmeyer said that the impetus for IYDP came from the national level, with the U.S. Council asking mayors and county commissioners to participate and to designate an official liaison to get a local committee organized. Because of a quick response from Helena's mayor, Susan guessed that Helena was recognized as the state's "flagship community." Their committee has about 15 members, about half of whom are disabled persons or family members and the other half professionals who deal with disabilities. Susan noted that the eight goal areas they are working on are often intertwined, and the resources of the committee become easily strained. Having a good chairman has been a key factor in the Helena Committee's success, she said.

"problems" Under the general category of "problems," panel discussants mentioned transportation (rather critical in Butte, evidently, where there appears to be little cooperation in

usage of the few handicapped-accessible vehicles available); gaining written materials on the standards and funding for making facilities physically accessible to all types of disabilities; facing financially hard times and needing to explore all alternatives (e.g., in Kalispell, they requested an elevator in one building but settled for a lift); and, generally, changing attitudes so that the rights of disabled persons are protected and it becomes "reputable" to be disabled.

In the area of "special projects and resources," the community representatives generally agreed that there are a number of civic, church-related and business groups sympathetic to the needs of the disabled and helpful in sponsorship of activities throughout Montana. "projects and resources" Among those mentioned were: Senior Citizens Clubs, Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Xerox, IBM, Mountain Bell, Hoerner Waldorf, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Rebekah, Odd Fellows, Jaycees, Safeway Stores and the Easter Seal Society. It appeared that in almost every community, churches were playing a prominent role in the IYDP. One person mentioned that sometimes, when funds are being solicited at the local level, businesses respond "we gave at the national office," and it was suggested that a letter be drafted to the U.S. Council inquiring if funds could be filtered back to the Community Partner Committees.

At the conclusion of the panel discussion, Judy Carlson highlighted some of the measures of special interest to disabled persons that were considered during the legislative session. She offered to provide copies to the community liaisons on request. Bills she listed that received favorable action were:

House Bill 91--providing deaf persons with the same statutory rights as blind persons, particularly those with hearing dogs

legislation

House Bill 67--setting up procedures for SRS to administer the blind vendors program

House Bill 79--requiring the Division of Motor Vehicles to publicize the handicapped parking spaces program

House Resolution 8 and Senate Resolution 5--encouraging Montanans' participation in the IYDP

Bills she mentioned that had died during the session were:

House Bill 164--making it a misdemeanor for a non-handicapped person to park in authorized handicapped parking spaces

House Bill 319--providing special services for handicapped students at the University System units.

Following a lunch break, the community representatives and the state agency/association officials reconvened for a "speak up" session to identify additional resources and needs.

RESOURCES

The afternoon session was facilitated by Cheryl Hutchinson of the Lt. Governor's staff with the assistance of Jeff Cochrane of the Governor's staff and Bob Jahner of SRS to record major points on newsprint sheets and to help clarify statements and suggestions from the audience. Cheryl reiterated that the morning session had been planned to find out what is happening for disabled Montanans, and the "speak up" session was intended to find out what could or should be happening. In particular, she said the new administration wanted some expression of the status of services for and the needs of Montana's disabled citizens to help guide future program or policy development.

(At the registration table, a variety of printed resources had been displayed as reference or take-home copies. In addition, several materials were distributed during the afternoon session. Appendix E contains a consolidated list of printed resources available during the meeting.)

Ray Brown, Administrator of the Human Rights Division of the Department of Labor (DOL), began the segment dealing with resources available within state government. He typified Montana as "having some of the most progressive human rights laws in the country" and invited any disabled person or organization to communicate with him if they had questions about legal alternatives, human rights or affirmative action policies, especially with regard to employment and housing opportunities. Also, he handed out material dealing with accessibility.

Next, Olive Price of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks distributed copies of a directory listing outdoor recreational services for the handicapped in Montana. In answer to a question about why some agencies produce useful publications such as the one she cited and why some didn't, she replied that often there are requirements tied to the receipt of federal funds. It was generally agreed that state agencies are inconsistent in the compilation and dissemination of such special-purpose information. outdoor recreation

A new position for state government that had been recommended by Governor Schwinden had and approved by the legislature was then described by Mark Cress, Personnel Division of the Department of Administration. Titled "Handicapped Employment Coordinator", the position as described by Mark is being designed to "develop programs for the employment of the handicapped in state government," and he added that it is hoped the position will help extend services to private employers, as well. He distributed a draft position

employment coordination

description, asking that any comments be submitted by May 18 so they could be considered prior to the effective date of the position on July 1.

employment committee

A Department of Labor employee, Mark Bowlds, then explained a Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped that has been attached to the department since 1975. Mark said the committee was not staffed sufficiently and was engaged in only limited awareness activities, but extensive materials were received from the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped that he would be pleased to share with anyone on request.

library services

In response to a suggestion that materials from state government be distributed through the public library system, Darleen Tiensvold of the State Library indicated that current law requires that 20 copies of every state publication are to be deposited at the State Library, but agencies only sporadically comply. She announced that a new position had been approved by the legislature--a coordinator of volunteer services in the State Library's blind and physically handicapped program--and explained that the program makes available large-print books, tapes and other materials for handicapped clients. Several favorable comments were made about the services, and Darleen gave out a toll-free number--1-800-332-3400--to be used in the state by persons interested in participating in the blind and physically handicapped program. She also invited recommendations of people who have the skill and willingness to read for the program.

vocational
rehabilitation

Bob Donaldson, Administrator of the Rehabilitative Services Division of SRS, distributed copies of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards for handicapped accessibility. He proceeded to describe the vocational rehabilitation program, which strives to return physically or mentally handicapped persons to gainful employment through counseling, training and physical restoration. The program is highly dependent on federal funding, he said, and some cutbacks and restructuring have been proposed by the Reagan administration so the future level of services is uncertain. Program administrators rely on two advisory councils to identify needs and design program approaches, he said.

Easter Seal

Monty Nelson of the State Easter Seal Society mentioned that copies of the ANSI standards, handicapped-related signs and a number of other services are available from the Society's offices and he offered to talk with anyone interested in knowing more about the range available.

Labor Department staff member Herb Waltermire reported on progress in the Job Service

to accommodate handicapped people and programming. During the past three years, for instance, Job Service extensive remodeling at the Job Service offices has been done; only 2 of 30 buildings, he said, have yet to be brought up to code. Also, 5 full-time staffers have been hired to locate disabled veterans and to assist them in applying for work. He said he would be happy to respond to any inquiries, mentioned some placement patterns and tax credit information, and distributed a directory of Job Service locations and managers:

Bill Pratt, the Community Arts Coordinator for the Montana Arts Council, a state agency, informed the group that the national-level arts agency has exhibited leadership in the area of handicapped accessibility to the arts, and he is quite willing to work with Montana communities on special problems they may encounter. Reference materials produced by the National Arts and the Handicapped Information Service are available from him, and he showed copies of a booklet on "504 and the Performing Arts," an information service enrollment form and a newsletter called "access." He mentioned that many of Montana's arts facilities are in renovated buildings where access is difficult and that most arts organizations operate on slim funding, but that the arts community is quite eager to involve the handicapped population in its activities and is cooperative about seeking solutions.

arts activities

Judy Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services in the Public Instruction Office, noted that most of the discussion had focused on adults, but that there are many special programs for handicapped children and youths. She suggested local schools are an excellent resource and that, oftentimes, schools are the focal point for advocacy of handicapped issues in communities.

local schools

Jim Schwind, a member of the Helena IYDP committee, mentioned the nutrition advocacy program for elderly and handicapped persons that operates in Helena, for example, through the Rocky Mountain Development Council. Other community action agencies may have similar projects, and it was noted that such local efforts as "meals on wheels" are helpful, as well. Jim explained that the RMDC's nutrition advocacy program involves people who do grocery shopping and delivery for home-bound individuals.

nutrition advocacy

In response to the morning's reference to transportation problems in Butte, Pat Saindon of the Department of Community Affairs' Transit Assistance Bureau said that the state staff is aware of problems but that coordination can best be achieved locally. Some of the community representatives offered their opinion that things were running relatively smoothly in their towns, but issues such as cooperative scheduling and insurance arrangements still need attention. Pat said five new vehicles have been placed in Butte. She acknowledged that at some sites, frequently handicapped-accessible vehicles are reserved for day-time, special-purpose use only (e.g., senior citizens, developmentally disabled). As funding and gas

transportation

supplies tighten, pooling may become essential. Pat announced that a workshop on transportation for elderly and handicapped people was scheduled for May 28-29 in Great Falls. Also, she said that all facets of transportation planning were being consolidated in the new Department of Commerce recommended by Governor Schwinden and approved by the legislature, and perhaps the transportation concerns of the handicapped will be more visible, too. If the IYDP committees want information or technical assistance on transportation issues, Pat expressed interest in working with them.

state map Following a brief break as a transition to the needs-identification segment of the "speak up" session, it was announced that this year, for the first time, handicapped-accessible rest areas are indicated on the state map produced by the Department of Highways.

architectural accessibility A status report on bringing state-owned buildings up to compliance for physical accessibility was given by John McKittrick of the Department of Administration's Architecture and Engineering Division. He explained that all new construction contracts include compliance provisions, that all buildings previously constructed are subject to a review process, that University System units have made considerable progress and that bids to bring the Capitol into structural compliance were being let. John mentioned he had copies of a brochure on Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that he would be happy to provide on request, and he also noted that staff from the Architectural and Engineering Division were available to consult with communities as questions of architectural accessibility arise.

communications devices In conjunction with a discussion of equipment needs, Superintendent-designee Bob Deming of the School for the Deaf and Blind in Great Falls explained some of the technology currently in use at the school, and he offered the services of the school's staff to advise communities or individuals about the range of equipment on the market. Earlier in the day, it also had been mentioned that Mountain Bell had designated a person to specialize in communications services for handicapped persons -- Clara Cichosz in Helena at 449-4264 -- and that equipment demonstrations could be conducted on request.

student services Another resource identified in correspondence after the meeting was the Handicapped Student Services unit in the Resource Center at Montana State University, Bozeman. Robert Frazier, HSS Director, sent the Lt. Governor's office some materials and extended the following invitation in his cover letter:
"Since we provide continuous services for more than twenty disability groups I would like to offer our services to the community groups as well. I personally do training workshops for faculty, staff,

students and service organizations, and at conferences both in and out of state. Additionally, our disabled student organization continually provides awareness information to various individuals and groups. If we can be of assistance to anyone needing information please let them know we'll be glad to provide it."

Intermingled in the "speak up" session were both resources and needs, and an attempt was made to link the two whenever possible. However, a number of unmet needs and suggested actions emerged during the afternoon discussion. The list of needs that was generated, along with explanatory comments as appropriate, included the following.

NEEDS/SUGGESTIONS

1. It would be useful to have a directory of resources that are available through state government and that are of interest to disabled persons. Such a directory might include services, programs, materials and personnel that have some relationship to the concerns of handicapped people. An inventory would not only serve as a reference for communities but would provide an agency-by-agency check on the current status of state activities for the disabled population. resource directory
2. An on-going advisory mechanism would be desirable from the vantage point of disabled constituents and those who deliver services to the disabled at the local/regional levels. It was intimated that the new position in Personnel may have an advisory group attached to it, though the focus most likely would be limited to employment concerns. advisory group
3. Since distribution of materials seems to be rather erratic, it was suggested that the public library system could be used more systematically. It was acknowledged, however, that many public libraries are not physically accessible to some handicaps and that state agencies often do not deposit sufficient copies of publications with the State Library. library distribution
4. With respect to employment opportunities for the disabled, it was suggested that state efforts need to take into account "the full breadth" of options and to recognize that a variety of transitions may be necessary. The extended employment program administered by Vocational Rehabilitation (SRS) was cited as an example of an effort in the right direction, though funding and coordination could be improved. Working in concert with community resources to take advantage of the "full gamut" of employment possibilities was emphasized. multiple employment opportunities
5. To accelerate the use of public-supported handicapped-accessible vehicles available in Montana, it was recommended that heightened efforts toward transportation coordination -- at both the state and local levels -- be achieved. Restrictions against multiple use arrangements, in particular, should be decreased. To encourage better public transportation

social activities

flexible use, issues such as scheduling, maintenance and insurance need cooperative action.

income gaps

6. More social centers and activities are needed in many communities for aging, developmentally disabled and physically handicapped people. Alternatives vary considerably from site to site, but generally the opportunities for social interaction or vocational day programs are quite limited. It was stated that lack of socializing experiences inhibits efforts toward mainstreaming.

funding!

7. It was pointed out that there may be gaps in the employment rehabilitation cycle, in that an individual may be on social security, then enter a training program, gain a job (therefore, go off social security), subsequently have problems resulting in job termination, and then have to wait 3 to 5 months to requalify for social security payments. Though the intent of the rehabilitation program is to relieve people from dependence on welfare and to increase personal skills, the period for reentry to social security benefits -- if the job experience is unsuccessful -- may serve as a disincentive to participation in rehabilitation programs. If something could be done to cover the waiting period, perhaps people would be more willing to join rehabilitation programs.

political action

8. Funding from all levels -- federal, state and local -- for most all services for the disabled was identified as a continuing need. In addition, it was suggested that the need might become more critical in the near future, given the cutbacks proposed from federal-level sources.

A-95 review

9. In addition to reductions in funding from the federal government, alarm was expressed with respect to the potential rescission of several federal laws and regulations. In particular, the rehabilitation act and the special education act were mentioned as being in jeopardy. Though there are arguments for and against federal intervention in those areas, it was agreed such laws have helped to leverage progress for disabled citizens. It was suggested that political action at the local level would be desirable to keep the intent of those laws alive, no matter what action might be taken by the President or the Congress.

10. Closer scrutiny of the needs of handicapped people in the A-95 clearinghouse process also was suggested. The A-95 process involves circulation of proposals/applications for federal funding to interested parties so that public and interagency comment can be considered.

11. Two ideas surfaced in regard to usage of equipment, particularly TDD's (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf). First, it would be helpful if there were alternatives to out-right purchase; many individuals who need the units do not have sufficient financial resources to buy but might be able to use equipment on a loan or lease arrangement. And, second, it was suggested that the state or some other entity should look into cooperative or bulk purchasing from vendors so that equipment for disabled people might be made available at a reduced rate and/or state offices would have such equipment more readily available. equipment
12. Three suggestions emerged with respect to vehicles driven by or for handicapped people. First, it might be helpful to have such vehicles identified by some special marking on the license plate. Second, a special (reduced) rate for vehicle licensing by disabled persons was requested. And, finally, having the reserved handicapped spaces returned to the Capitol parking area was recommended. vehicles
13. Establishing a statewide "bank" of signers who would be available to interpret for the deaf, especially at public meetings (hearings, court proceedings, etc.), was suggested. It was mentioned that many signers have daytime jobs, however, and frequently are unavailable or need sufficient pay to compensate for time lost on their regular jobs. (On questioning, it was clarified that signers had been arranged for the May 5 meeting although no need arose.) interpreters
14. A need that emerged during the morning session was added to the list: home health care for people other than those on medicaid. At least in one community, home health care had been identified as the greatest unmet need. home health care
15. Recognizing that many disabled persons take up the visual arts as a hobby -- and some as a profession -- a suggestion was made that a traveling exhibit of their works be organized to gain statewide exposure. arts exhibit
16. Increased availability of captioned television programming -- in more localities and for more shows -- would be appreciated. TV captions
17. And, the final area of need recorded was to involve more Montana cities and counties in IYDP activities. Specifically, the 14 "Community Partner" representatives present wondered why more local governments (city councils and county commissions) hadn't responded to the U.S. Council's invitation to designate liaisons and form committees. more involvement

Since time was running short, participants were invited to submit any additional areas of need to the Lt. Governor's office by the following Friday; however, none were received.

Two or three times during the day-long session, reference was made to national IYDP goals and the preference for communities to set their own goals reflecting localized interests and needs. Using the national goals as a reference, however, participants were asked to pick from the list of nine their three top concerns which would then be compiled as an indication of priorities in Montana. On the basis of the 21 respondents to the "survey," the priorities were as follows:

1. improved access to housing, buildings and transportation;
2. greater opportunity for employment;
3. expanded educational opportunity (note: comments included both learning experiences for adults and public education on disabled issues);
4. greater participation in recreational, social and cultural activities;
5. expanded and strengthened rehabilitation programs and facilities;
6. reduction in the incidence of disability through accident and disease prevention (note: comments included family planning and genetic counseling);
7. expanded exchange of information and experience to benefit all disabled persons;
8. purposeful application of biomedical research aimed at conquering major disabling conditions; and
9. increased application of technology to ameliorate the effects of disability.

Admittedly, the "survey" that day was neither a large nor representative sampling of opinion, but the inquiry did produce the clear reading that the top three goal areas were uppermost on the minds of the attendees.

At the close of the session, Ruthe Kronebusch of Conrad expressed thanks to the Administration for sponsoring the meeting and bringing the community representatives together. Lt. Governor Turman then reflected on some of what he had gained from the discussions. He said he shared Gallatin County Commissioner Nash's judgment that the meeting had certainly helped to increase general awareness of the range of issues and to sensitize more people on the concerns of disabled citizens. He commented on how pleased he was to hear frequent references to support from private businesses and civic groups around the state. As an example of making state workers "aware of our foibles," he cited the instance of the parking sign removal (rather than enforcement) that had been brought to the attention of the group by James Farrar of Shelby. The Lieutenant Governor also agreed with the assessment of Bill Crivello of Kalispell that "there does not appear to be much consistency" across departments with respect to services for the disabled, adding that he hoped the situation might change in part as a result of the Governor's sponsorship of the meeting. For those state employees who said they had materials but didn't know where to distribute them, he suggested the IYDP community representatives should be considered a primary audience. And, typifying the meeting as having "officialized" the Administration's concern for disabled Montanas, Lt. Governor Turman reiterated Governor Schwinden's commitment and repeated the pledge that the report of the meeting would be used as a "working document" in examining and designing future actions.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

LIST OF REGISTRANTS
(includes only those who signed in at registration table)

"IYDP COMMUNITY PARTNER" REPRESENTATIVES

Big Horn County	Rick Thompson, Hardin
Chouteau County	Connie Green, Big Sandy Hazel Sande, Geraldine Doris Gullikson, Big Sandy
Flathead County	Bill Crivello, Kalispell LaVonne Koenig, Kalispell
Hill County	Diane Savasten, Havre
Lewis & Clark County	Dan McCarthy, Helena Ken Rohyans, Helena
Missoula County and City of Missoula	Jace Laakso, Missoula
Pondera County	Ruthie Kronebusch, Conrad
Sanders County	Leslie Foster, Plains
Teton County	Joyce Curtis, Choteau
Toole County	James Farrar, Shelby
City of Butte	Kathy Collins
City of Great Falls	H.P. Brown
City of Helena	Susan Barmeyer Mike White Judy Gardner Ralph Rasmussen Judy Backa Jim Schwind Martha Hawkins John McCrea

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES

Lieutenant Governor	George Turnman
Governor's Staff	Jeff Cochrane Monica Conrad
Lt. Governor's Staff	Cheryl Hutchinson
Office of Budget & Program Planning	Ron Weiss
Department of Administration	Morris Brusett, Director John McKittrick Trish Moore Mark Cress Barb Charlton Joyce Brown
Department of Agriculture	Gordon McOmber, Director
Department of Business Regulation	Isabelle Pistelak
Department of Community Affairs	Kent Mollohan Pat Saindon
Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks	Olive Price
Department of Health and Environmental Science	Dr. John Drynan, Director Dr. John Anderson Dr. Sidney Pratt Dee Capp
Department of Highways	Betty Taylor
Department of Institutions	Carroll South, Director
Department of Labor and Industry	Mark Bowlds Herb Waltermire Ray Brown
Department of State Lands	Steve Anderson
Department of Military Affairs	Colonel George Cramer
Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Jane Reed Benson
Department of Revenue	Joe Cox

Department of Social and
Rehabilitation Services

John LaFaver, Director
Gary Blewett
Maggie Bullock
Judy Carlson
Bob Donaldson
Bob Jahner
Dan Pouliot
Norma Vestre
Kay Hickman

OTHER STATE OFFICIALS, AGENCIES

Office of Public Instruction

Senator Mike Halligan
State Superintendent Ed Argenbright
Judy Johnson

Attorney General's Office

Susan Hansen

Montana University System

Cathie Nelson
Bob Frazier
Dennis Klewin

Montana Arts Council

Bill Pratt

Montana State Library

Darleen Tiensvold

Legislative Council

Diana Dowling, Director

School for the Deaf and Blind

Bob Deming

ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Montana Coalition of Handicapped
Individuals

Vivian Crabtree

Easter Seal Society and Goodwill
Industries, Inc.

Monty Nelson

Montana Association of Counties

Joy Nash, Gallatin County

Montana League of Cities and Towns

Dan Mizner

MONTANA IYDP "COMMUNITY PARTNERS" MAILING LIST
DESIGNATED LIAISON MAY 5 REPRESENTATIVE

Big Horn County

Rick Thompson, Jr.
c/o Big Horn Industries
202 N. Center
Hardin, MT 59349
665-3262

(Same)

Chouteau County

Connie Green
Box 7, Big Sandy Activities
Big Sandy, MT 59442
(W) 378-2598, (H) 378-2559

(Same)

Daniels County

Beverly Barstad
Scooby, MT 59263
487-2721

None

Flathead County

Rita K. Hanson
P. O. Box 1000
Kalispell, MT 59901
755-5300, Ext. 235

William J. Crivello
c/o Flathead Industries
for the Handicapped
305 3rd Ave. East
Kalispell, MT 59901
755-7656

Hill County

Gary Nimmick
c/o Havre Day Activity Center
3001 15th Street North
Havre, MT 59501
265-5506

Diane Savasten
1240 Cleveland Ave.
Havre, MT 59501
265-9572

Lewis and Clark County

Ken Rohyans and Dan McCarthy
c/o Progress, Inc.
533 North Main
Helena, MT 59601
443-5878

(Same)

(APPENDIX B, Continued)

DESIGNATED LIAISON

MAY 5 REPRESENTATIVE

Missoula County

Charles Briggs
c/o Missoula Advocacy Program
2110 South Avenue West
Missoula, MT 59801
549-5061

Jace Laakso
930 Stoddard St.
Missoula, MT 59801
721-2289

Pondera County

Ruthe Kronebusch
Route 3, Box 387
Conrad, MT 59425
278-3860

(Same)

Sanders County

Norman E. Resler
Box 65
Plains, MT 59859
826-3066

Jace Laakso
930 Stoddard St.
Missoula, MT 59801
721-2289

Teton County

Joyce Curtis
Box 659
Choteau, MT 59422
466-2455

(Same)

Toole County

James C. Farrar
625 1st St. N.
Shelby, MT 59474
434-2597

(Same)

Yellowstone County

Joe Vasek
715½ N. 16th
Billings, MT 59101
248-8240

None

City of Butte

Arlene Mihelish
c/o Developmental Disabilities Council
155 West Granite Street
County Courthouse
Butte, MT 59701
723-8262, Ext. 232

Kathy D. Collins
416 W. Quartz
Butte, MT 59701
(W) 494-4572, (H) 792-9048

City of Great Falls

H. P. Brown
2733 Fern
Great Falls, MT 59403
453-5654

(Same)

City of Helena

Susan Barneyer
c/o Rocky Mountain Development Corp.
P. O. Box 721
Helena, MT 59601
442-1552

+ Mike White
1275 Rimini Road
Missoula, MT 59601
442-6410, Ext. 234

City of Missoula

Roger Miller
P. O. Box 7073
Missoula, MT 59801

(See Missoula County)

State of Montana

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Sunday, May 3, marks Handicapped Awareness Day throughout our nation, and it is during this time that we affect approximately 113,000 Montanans and 32 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, Montana is a State Partner in the 1981 activities of the International Year of Disabled Persons, and several Montana counties and towns are recognized as IVDP Community Partners; and

WHEREAS, both the Senate and the House of Representatives of Montana's Forty-Seventh Legislative Assembly recently supported the efforts of the IVDP and, through official resolutions, encouraged "the citizens of the State of Montana to recognize and participate in local and statewide activities relating to the IVDP"; and

WHEREAS, the theme of the 1981 IVDP "Full Participation and Equality" is to be advanced through the following national goals, among others:

- expanded educational opportunity
- improved access to housing, buildings and transportation
- greater opportunity for employment
- greater participation in recreational, social and cultural activities
- reduction in the incidence of disability through accident and disease prevention; and

WHEREAS, Montanans subscribe to the belief that an accessible environment serves everyone -- young and old, disabled and nondisabled -- and that equal access and rights should be extended to all citizens.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TED SCHWINDEN, Governor of the State of Montana, do hereby proclaim the week of May 3 through May 9, 1981, as

MONTANA HANDICAPPED AWARENESS WEEK

and call upon all citizens to join in celebrating the contributions and addressing the concerns of individuals with disabilities, with the intent of enabling full and independent participation in the life of our Montana.



In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MONTANA to be affixed. DONE at the City of Helena, the Capital, this twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our LORD, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-one.

Jim Walmir
ATTEST:
Jim Walmir
Secretary of State

Ted Schwinden
TED SCHWINDEN
Governor of Montana

AGENDA

"MONTANA HANDICAPPED AWARENESS WEEK/
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF DISABLED PERSONS"
MAY 5, 1981 INVITATIONAL MEETING
GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION ROOM, STATE CAPITOL*
HELENA, MONTANA

9:00 A.M.
9:30 A.M.

L.T. GOVERNOR GEORGE TURMAN

INTRODUCTIONS

9:45 A.M.

COFFEE AND DANISH
GREETINGS, REMARKS

11:00 A.M.

SHARING SESSION: PART I
REPORTS FROM IYDP COMMUNITY LIAISONS ABOUT
ACTIVITIES IN THEIR COUNTIES OR CITIES
(APPROXIMATELY 5 MINUTES EACH)

11:30 A.M.

SHARING SESSION: PART II
PANEL DISCUSSION AMONG IYDP COMMUNITY LIAISONS,
MODERATED BY STATE IYDP LIAISON JUDY CARLSON:
• PROBLEMS AND SUCCESSES
• GETTING COMMUNITIES ORGANIZED
• SPECIAL COMMUNITY IYDP PROJECTS
• USEFUL NATIONAL RESOURCES

NOON

LUNCH BREAK

1:30 P.M.

"SPEAK IYD" SESSION
LEGISLATORS, STATE AGENCY AND ASSOCIATION OFFICIALS
JOIN IYDP REPRESENTATIVES IN COMMENTING ON CONDITIONS
FOR DISABLED PERSONS IN MONTANA, SERVICES/PROGRAMS
THAT ARE AVAILABLE, ETC.
• SUGGESTIONS?
• OPINIONS?
• PRIORITIES?

3:30 P.M.

SUMMARY REMARKS
IYDP COMMUNITY LIAISONS
L.T. GOVERNOR GEORGE TURMAN

4:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

*SOUTH, CENTER ENTRANCE BEST FOR WHEELCHAIR PARTICIPANTS AND ACCESS
TO ELEVATORS; RECEPTION ROOM IS ON SECOND FLOOR, EAST WING BEHIND
RECEPTION DESK.

APPENDIX E

LIST OF MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Posters

"Montana Handicap Awareness Week, May 3-9, 1981"
(available from Betty Taylor, Department of Highways)

"We love the same country . . . 1981, The International Year of
Disabled Persons," produced by the President's Committee on Employment
of the Handicapped (available from Judith Carlson, Department of
Social and Rehabilitation Services)

Lists, Memoranda

"Directory of Job Service Offices," dated 17 April 1981,
(available from Herb Waltermire, Department of Labor)

List of selected national and state resources prepared by SRS,
dated 1 May 1981 (available from Judith Carlson, SRS)

Undated memo from Bob Donaldson, SRS, with attached list of qualified
interpreters for the deaf in Montana

Memo dated 5 May 1981 from Mark Cress, Personnel Division of the
Department of Administration, with attached preliminary job
description for new Handicapped Employment Coordinator

Publications

"Mainstreet: A Guide for Service Organizations on Community Action
for Disabled Americans," 28 pages, produced by the President's
Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (available from Judith
Carlson, SRS)

"504 Fact Sheet: Handicapped Persons' Rights Under Federal Law"
dated March 1978, 14-page brochure produced by U.S. Office for
Civil Rights (available from U.S. Government Printing Office
or John McKittrick, Department of Administration)

"Specifications for Making Buildings and Facilities Accessible to
and Usable by Physically Handicapped People," 68-page booklet
produced by American National Standards Institute (available
from Easter Seal Society offices or Bob Donaldson, SRS)

Publications (continued)

"Directory of Outdoor Recreation Services for the Handicapped in the State of Montana" by Karen Shirer, a 60-page booklet produced by Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (available from Olive Price, FWP)

"504 and the Performing Arts" dated March 1979, a 32-page booklet produced by the National Endowment for the Arts (available from Bill Pratt, Montana Arts Council)

"ACCESS," a newsletter with information from the Arts & Special Constituencies Project of the National Endowment for the Arts (available from Bill Pratt, Montana Arts Council)

"The National Arts & the Handicapped Information Service: Enrollment Form" (available from Bill Pratt, Montana Arts Council)

"The Kids on the Block," an excerpt from the newsletter Disabled USA produced by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (available from United Cerebral Palsy of Montana, Great Falls)

"The Law and Disabled People: Selected Federal and State Laws Affecting Employment and Certain Rights of People with Disabilities," a 172-page booklet produced by the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped (available from U.S. Government Printing Office)

"Approaches to Affirmative Action: Special Programs, Handicapped Workers," a 6-page excerpt from Fair Employment Practices (available from Ray Brown, Human Rights Division, Department of Labor)

"Higher Education and the Handicapped, 1980-81 Resource Directory" produced by U.S. Department of Education (available from Bob Frazier, Montana State University)

"M.S.U. Accessibility Handbook for the Handicapped," a 32-page booklet on campus resources (available from Bob Frazier, MSU)

